

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 11 without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter.

Claims 1 through 11 (Cancelled).

Please add Claims 12-22 as follows:

--12. (New) A sheet post-processing device, comprising:

a conveying roller which conveys a sheet;

an intermediate stacking tray which has a pair of support members for respectively supporting edges of the sheet conveyed by said conveying roller in a direction intersecting with a sheet conveying direction, wherein each of the support members has a support portion for supporting one of the edges of the sheet and the support members are capable of moving toward and away from each other in a direction intersecting with the sheet conveying direction so that the sheet is pressed against one of the support members that serves as a reference by the other support member to be positioned; and

a stacking tray which receives the sheet that is dropped through a gap created between inner edges in the direction intersecting with the sheet conveying direction of the support portions of the support members which are moved away from each other and are moved to respective retraction positions,

wherein the gap is narrower on a downstream side in the sheet conveying direction than on an upstream side in the sheet conveying direction, when the support members are moved to the retraction positions respectively.

13. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 12, wherein the support portion of the other support member is formed in a shape partially cut off on the upstream side in the sheet conveying direction, and thereby the gap between the inner edges of the support portions in the direction intersecting with the sheet conveying direction is narrowed on the downstream side in the sheet conveying direction.

14. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 12, wherein, when the pair of the support members is moved to the retraction positions respectively, the gap between the inner edges of the support portions in the direction intersecting with the sheet conveying direction is narrowed on the downstream side in the sheet conveying direction by tilting the other support member with respect to the one support member.

15. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 12, wherein, when the pair of the support members is moved to the retraction positions respectively, the difference in the gap between the inner edges of the support portions in the direction intersecting with the sheet conveying direction on the downstream side and the upstream side in the sheet conveying direction is set approximately equal to a distance that the sheet conveyed by the

conveying roller travels until the sheet reaches the one support member that serves as the reference.

16. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 13, wherein the support portion of the other support member on the downstream side in the sheet conveying direction is provided in the other support member so as to be movable toward and away from the one support member.

17. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 13, wherein the support portion of the other support member on the downstream side in the sheet conveying direction is formed in a triangular shape.

18. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 16, wherein the support portion of the other support member on the downstream side in the sheet conveying direction moves in accordance with the size of the sheet conveyed by the conveying roller.

19. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 12, wherein the pair of the support members positions the sheet by making parallel motions to approach each other.

20. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 12, wherein downstream side ends in the sheet conveying direction of the support portions of the pair of the support members are on a higher plane than upstream side ends of the support members.

21. (New) A sheet post-processing device according to claim 12, wherein the support portions of the pair of the support members are bent in the middle in the sheet conveying direction in a manner that puts the downstream side ends of the support portions in the sheet conveying direction on a higher plane than the upstream side ends of the support portions in the sheet conveying direction.

22. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image formation unit for forming an image on a sheet; and
a sheet post-processing device for processing the sheet on which the image is formed by the image forming unit,
wherein the sheet post-processing device is a sheet post-processing device of any one of claims 12 through 21.--